

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 8 and 10-15. Claims 8 and 13 presently stand rejected. Claims 10-12, 14 and 15 are presently objected to. Figures 1-4 and claims 8 and 11 have been amended. The Applicants respectfully requests that the amendments be entered and that the instant application be reconsidered in view of the following remarks.

Drawings

In the June 23, 2004 Office Action, Figures 1-4 are objected to because the Office Action indicates that Figure 1-4 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. The Applicants have amended Figures 1-4 accordingly. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the drawing objections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the June 23, 2004 Office Action, claims 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants' admitted prior art in combination with Hoshino et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,193,137.

In the June 23, 2004 Office Action, it is also indicated that claims 10, 11, 12, 14 are 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to expedite a timely allowance of the present application, the Applicants have amended claim 8 to include the limitations of claim 10 to, in effect, rewrite claim 10 in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Applicants understand that claim 8 as presently amended should now be allowable. Remaining pending claims 11-15 are dependent claims and should be allowable for the same reasons as independent claim 8, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, the

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1-4. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Figures 1-4. In Figures 1-4, the label “(PRIOR ART)” has been added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Applicants respectfully request that the instant section 103 rejections be withdrawn.

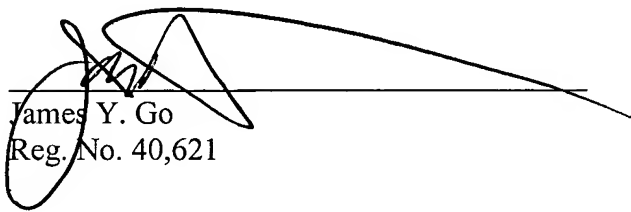
If there is a deficiency in fees, please charge our Deposit Acct. No. 02-2666.

The Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 9-10-04


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Attachments

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on September 10, 2004

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